

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The 3rd Warsaw Pontoon Bridge Regiment is normally stationed in Wloclawek. During the summer, from 15 April to 30 September, the regiment moves to its summer camp at Modzerowo on the Vistula.
  - a. Garrison Barracks (see Sketch No. 1).
    - 1). The regiment occupies barracks on ul. Zytnia in Wloclawek which were formerly occupied by the 14th Infantry Regiment. The barracks were recently extended by the building of modern garages (No. 20 on sketch) and four new underground fuel tanks of the CPN (Central Office of Fuel Products) (No. 17) equipped with a pump.
    - 2). The regimental sick quarters and lecture halls are located in the three-story building of the former civilian hospital (No. 5 on Sketch No. 2) which is on the same street as the barracks and about 10 minutes march in the direction of Modzerowo.
    - 3). The garrison baths are on ul. Torunska.
    - 4). Magazines with explosives are located in the forest 2 km. south of the barracks, on the left-hand side of the main road leading to Kowal.
  - b. Summer Camp.
    - 1). The camp is situated on the Vistula at Modzerowo at a distance of seven km. southeast of Wloclawek (Sketch No. 3).
    - 2). The camp covers an area of 2 km. x 1 km. which is surrounded by barbed wire and fenced off from the street by wire netting.
    - 3). The troops are billeted in large tents (one tent to a platoon) but the officers live in wooden huts. The armory and offices are also located in huts.

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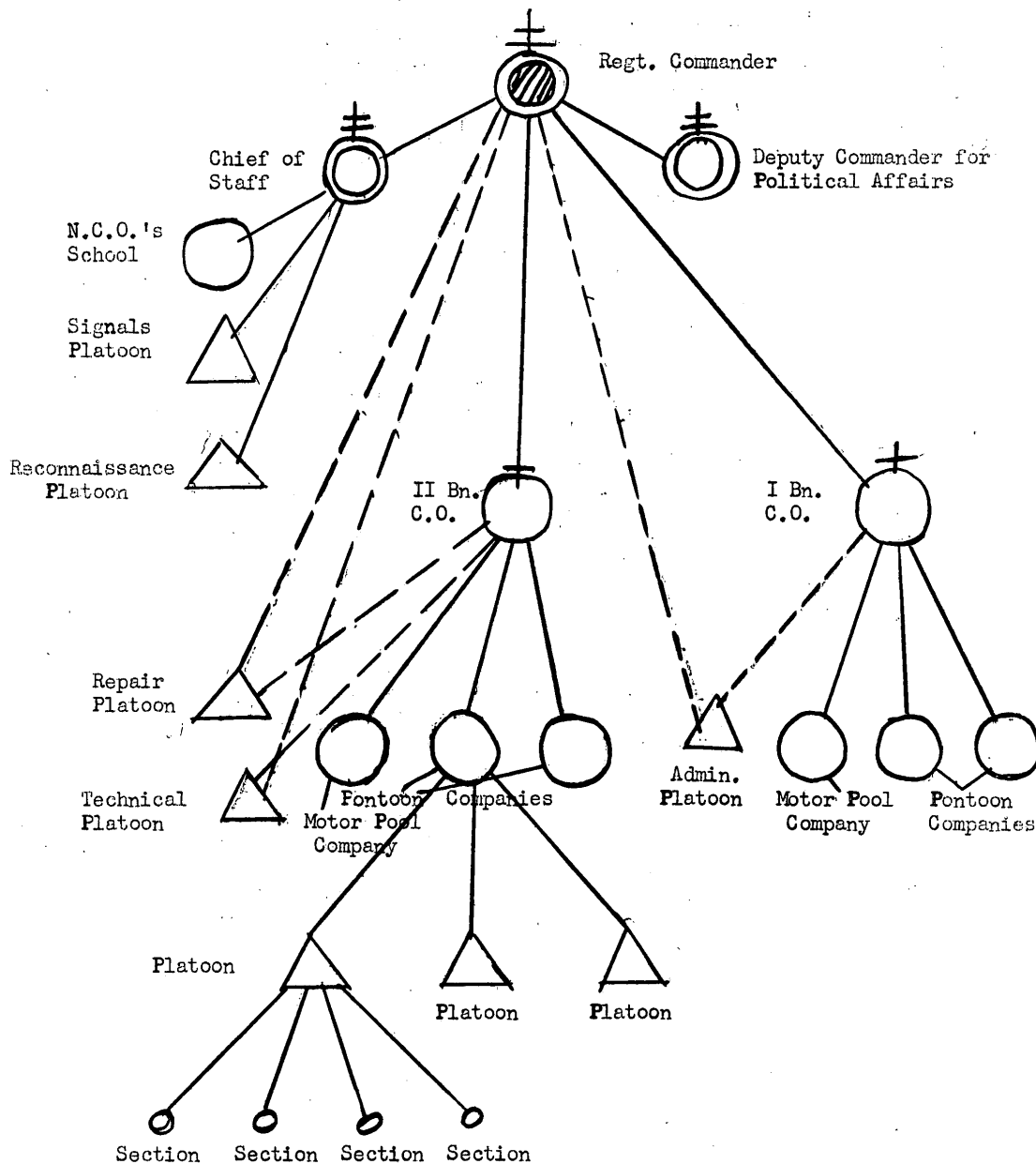
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- 4). Pontoons, beams, and planks are stored right on the bank of the Vistula though smaller equipment is kept in corrugated iron huts nearby.
- 5). Adjoining the regiment's summer camp is the summer camp of an independent bridging battalion.

2. The 3rd Warsaw Pontoon Bridge Regiment was formerly known as the 1st Regiment and it still has the standard with the inscription: 1st Warsaw Pontoon Bridge Regiment.

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## a. Diagram of the Organization.



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- b. The regiment consists of two battalions and special platoons. A 3rd battalion is to be formed when the barracks are extended. Strength: about 600.
  - c. The Chief of Staff is directly responsible for the regiment's NCO school (120 troops), the signal platoon (40 troops), and the reconnaissance platoon (20 troops).
  - d. Up to 1952 there was a regimental band but it is no longer in existence. 25X1
  - e. The regimental commander is responsible for the repair, technical, and administrative platoons although billeting, rationing and discipline are dealt with by the appropriate battalion commanders.
3. The Commander of Engineer Troops is General Bordzilowski. The Commander of the Second Military District in Bydgoszcz is General Polturzycki, a former Soviet officer. The Chief of Engineer Troops in the Second Military District is Colonel Wesolowski, a former Soviet officer.

4. The pontoon bridge company consists of three platoons, each of four sections.
- a. Equipment: Since each platoon has two pontoons, the company can assemble two bridge components, each composed of three pontoons.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Armament and Kit: Each platoon has one Russian light machine gun. Each soldier has a sub-machine gun of Polish manufacture, 1943 model with two magazines and 35 cartridges; a gas mask (Russian); a sapper's knife; tools such as hand saw, long saw, pick axe, spade, wire cutters, etc., depending on his function in the section; and a rucksack to which a blanket is strapped

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and inside of which are a sheet, pillow case, towel, cleaning materials, cutlery, and canteen.

- d. Pontoons (sketch No. 4): The pontoons, which are made of iron and are decked, are in two parts: the bow and the middle. The weight of a pontoon is 520 kg. A 30-ton bridge component consists of two bow pontoons. A 60-ton bridge component consists of two bow parts and one middle part. A 100-ton bridge component, which is twin-decked, consists of two bow parts and two middle parts. The distance between pontoons when building a bridge is about 10 m. The length of beam is 8 m.
5. The motor vehicle company has the following equipment: three cutters of Russian make, conveyed on special carriers, bridge trucks (without sides), mainly Studebaker type, with four-wheel drive. These trucks are highly prized in the regiment and carefully maintained, although they are not infallible in boggy or sandy terrain.
  - a. The regiment also has trucks of ZIS and GAZ-150 types, but they are too weak. They get stuck in heavy ground and for this reason they cannot be used as fighting vehicles but are employed in the rear for administrative purposes.
  - b. A bridge truck carries one pontoon, four beams and five planks (four normal planks and one connecting plank), anchor rope, anchor windlass and anchor, turbine wheel, handrails, etc. Altogether there are 70 bridge trucks in the regiment.
  - c. The trucks which haul the cutters (on special carriers) also carry smaller bridge parts.
6. The technical platoon is equipped for the construction of wooden bridges with a mechanical saw (four saws, three of which are new), an electric saw, planes and electric drills, electric pile drivers, etc., an electric generator and outboard motors for boats.
7. The signal platoon has a short-wave W/T set of Russian make and field telephones. Its strength is 40.
8. Daily timetable in summer camp:
 

0500 hours	Reveille.
0515-1530	Physical training.
0530-0630	Washing, dressing, bed-making, morning roll call.
0630-0830	Political lectures.
0900	Breakfast.
1030-1330	Exercises including one hour's swimming.
1330-1430	Rifle cleaning.
1500	Dinner.
1500-1700	Free (siesta).
1700-1900	Sports (hurdle track).
1900	Supper.
1930-2100	Free time intended for educational groups and Party meetings.
2100-2200	Private study and personal correspondence.
2230	Lights out.

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During night exercises, once a month, and regimental exercises, once a week, the morning program is changed.

9. Recruits are drafted to the regiment twice a year, in autumn (October and November) and in spring (March and April). In 1951 the autumn intake took place in November and consisted of 100 recruits, all from the 1931 year group. At that time two older groups were serving in the regiment of which the oldest were being retained for a third year. In 1952 the spring intake was 200 recruits, and in autumn, 80.
10. Recruit training lasts for two months, after which they take the oath and are graded according to their specialities for posting to the appropriate subunits of the regiment, including the NCO's school. Summer training lasts from 15 April to the end of September. The summer exercises complete the training of the new recruit. After completion of the recruits' course they become a senior-year group, and after a further reorganization in the various subunits, this year group takes over the training and instruction of the younger-year group. During this time the senior-year group from the company is employed on various types of regimental duties, such as working in the stores for the maintenance of equipment, guard duties, etc.
11. Regimental exercises take place once a week. They are intended to test the ability of the troops to build bridges in a given time. The exercises are commanded by the regimental commander himself. At a given signal everyone runs to the Vistula where they proceed to build bridges. Sections which do not complete the required norms, either in the construction or in the dismantling of the bridge, must repeat the exercise; sometimes they are even fined. On the other hand, sections which show great skill are praised and rewarded.
  - a. The following norms are in force:
    - construction of a 30-ton bridge component: 12 minutes by day;
    - construction of a 30-ton bridge component: 15 minutes by night;
    - construction of a bridge: 30 minutes;
    - dismantling of a bridge: 20 minutes.
  - b. The construction of bridge components is done at a distance of about 200 m. from the planned axis of the bridge. A bridge component consists not only of connected pontoons (2, 3, or 4) but also of the bridge planking (beams, planks, borders, handrails, etc.). When completed the bridge component is towed by barge and fixed at the bridge axis where it is anchored and the planking connected.
  - c. Exercises of the motor vehicle company include discharging a pontoon from a truck directly into the river. This is done by backing the bridge truck quickly and braking hard at the river's edge, thus throwing the pontoon straight into the river.
12. In June 1952, there were inter-divisional exercises in the Podjuchy (Podejuch) area. Tanks took part in them along with infantry, artillery, and engineer troops. The air force did not take part although it was originally planned that they would. The task of the 3rd Pontoon Bridge Regiment was to ensure that the units crossed the Oder. The exercises were inspected by about eight Soviet generals and colonels, including General Bordzilowski, Colonel Wesolowski and

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- Lt. Col. Lipiecki, former C.O. of the regiment, who appeared in Soviet uniform.
- a. The regiment travelled by rail (70 cars) from Wloclawek to Podjuchy, where the equipment was unloaded and taken by the regimental transport to the training ground. The trucks had to make three trips.
  - b. Bridge building began at dawn and 1½ hours afterwards the first crossing took place. The regiment built one pontoon bridge to carry infantry and artillery, and two ferries for heavy tanks. The ferry was towed by a cutter. The tank crossing was difficult as there were no good piers, but there were not many tanks.
  - c. The regiment acquitted itself very well. The inspecting Soviet officers were generous with their praise. This completed the exercises for the regiment and they returned to their own base. Regimental exercises normally lasted four days, including the time of transport by rail to and from their summer camp.
  - d. The 5th Mazowian Pontoon Bridge Regiment also took part in the exercises at Podjuchy. This regiment has a light pontoon park (sic) and the soldiers carried the pontoons during the exercises. They are made of plywood and covered with canvas.
13. Normally about six Soviet officers as well as General Bordzilowski and Colonel Wesolowski carried out the autumn inspection. The regiment never took part in exercises with Soviet units.
  14. Exercises in mine clearing consisted of pricking over the ground with a kind of lance (szczupa). The pricking had to be done at an angle. When a mine was discovered it was dug out and dismantled. The troops carried out this exercise lying down. These mine detectors form part of the equipment of a pontoon company.
    - a. The following types of mines were used:
      - 1). Anti-personnel mines No. 7. These consist of 200 gr. blocks of trotyl in small oblong wooden boxes measuring 10 x 5 x 4 cm.
      - 2). Anti-tank mines, known as T.M.D. (Tankowe Miny Drowniane). These consist of two blocks of trotyl weighing 2.5 kg. packed in a wooden case approximately 35 x 35 x 25 cm. Fuse with pressure mechanism. During training wooden dummies were used.
  15. From September to November 1952 one platoon of the 3rd Pontoon Bridge Regiment was attached for special duties to the Main Depot of Engineer Material near Drawno. The depot is in the forest about seven km. east of Drawno, on the left-hand side of the main road leading to Kalisz Pomorski. The platoon was billeted in former German barracks with platoons from other branches of the service which were attached to the depot for the same job.
    - a. The depot is permanently guarded by a guard company. In addition to the former German buildings numerous stores have been built since the war. Apparently the depot is on the site of a former German underground aircraft factory. Access to the factory is impossible because it has been flooded.

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- b. The soldiers attached to the depot were employed on making ferro-concrete slabs for the construction of bunkers. In wartime, bunkers can be made very quickly from these slabs. This type of bunker will be built by pontoon regiments at bridgeheads as emplacements for heavy machine guns.
- c. Length of slab: 1.80 m.  
thickness: 16 cm.  
size of bunker: 1.80 m. by 1.80 m.
- d. One section (eight soldiers) in one day made 12 normal ferro-concrete slabs and two with firing slits. Proportions: to two barrow loads of gravel add 1 bag of cement plus iron rods and water. The mixture is thick and must be beaten to get rid of the water.
16. In June 1952, about 200 reservists came to the regiment for a month's exercises. A special training battalion was created for them. The reservists were about 30 years of age. On the whole they did not do much training as they were employed in administrative duties. At the same time exercises for reserve officers (from 2nd Lt. to Capt.) were held for three months (May, June, July). They were posted as duplicate platoon commanders and underwent very intensive training.
17. In July 1952, there were exercises for about 20-30 students. They had one month's intensive training. In summer 1953, about 30 students were called up for exercises lasting three months.
1. Comment. In 1954 Captain Darda was released from the army and his place was taken by Lt. Kulikowski. 25X1
2. Comment. The pontoons are said to be of Russian origin. 25X1  
25X1  
See attached sketch 25X1  
of the pontoons.

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Legend for Sketch No. 1

1. Barracks entrance
2. Guard at entrance
3. Regimental headquarters and guard room
4. Guard inside headquarters building
5. POL store for current use
6. Sports hall
7. Garden
8. Officers' Mess
9. Guard by the stores
10. Clothing stores (one-story building)
11. Coal and wood dump
12. Ration store
13. Railway ramp
14. Railway siding
15. One-story barrack block (NCO's school)
16. Barrack block (single-story building)
17. Underground POL store
18. Guard at fuel containers
19. Kitchen and dining rooms (single-story building)
20. Garages in newly-built buildings
21. Square in front of garages
22. Engineer equipment stores (single-story building)
23. Single-story barrack block (2nd Battalion)
24. Sports stadium and track
25. Hurdles track 600 m. long
26. Single-story barrack block (1st Battalion)
27. Workshops and car repair hall
28. Guard by the stores
29. Engineer equipment stores (single-story building)
30. Building timber dump
31. Wood store
32. Pig sties
33. Barracks musketry range, 100 m. long
34. Joiners' shop

Legend for Sketch No. 2.

1. Cooperative
2. Private building
3. Garden
4. Roadway (internal)
5. Three-story building. (Sick quarters on the ground floor, lecture halls upstairs.)

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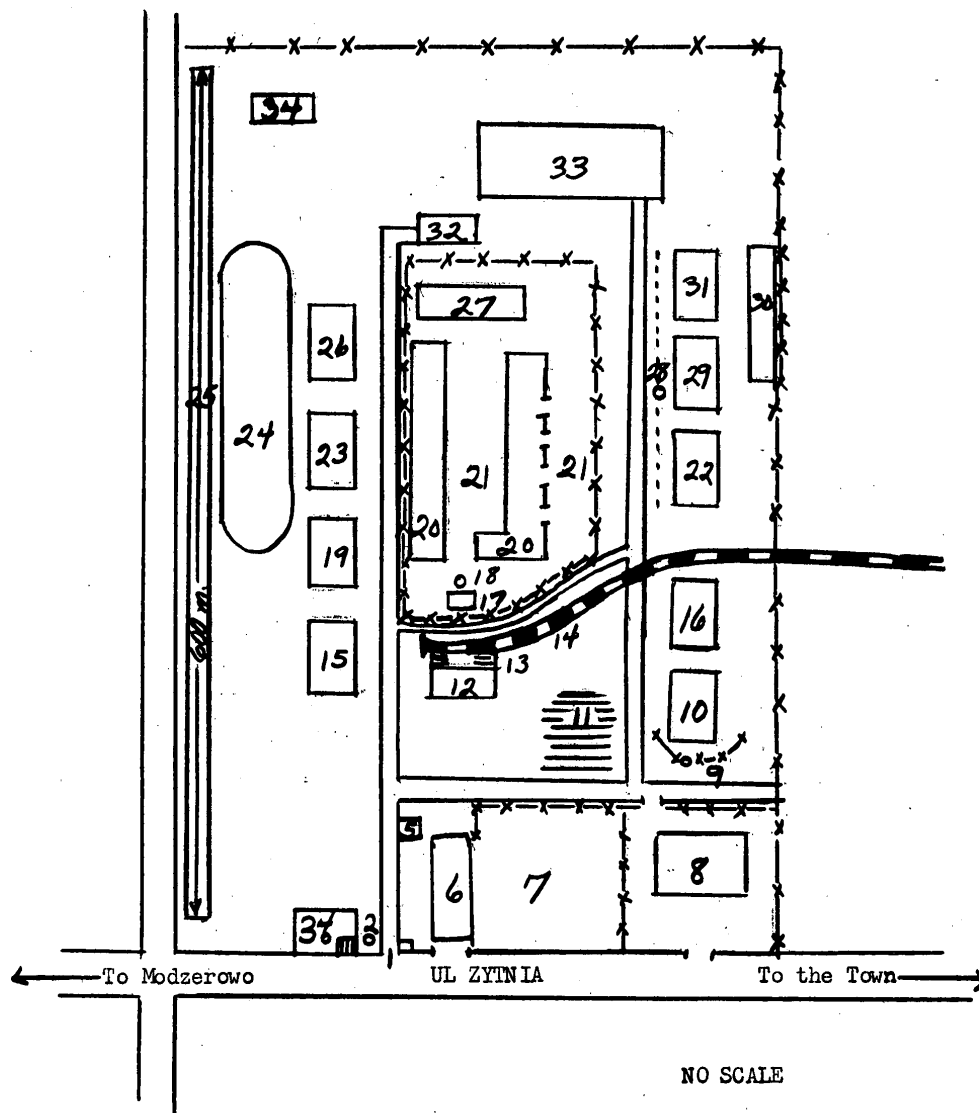


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Sketch No. 1 - Barracks of the 3rd Warsaw Pontoon Regiment in Wloclawek



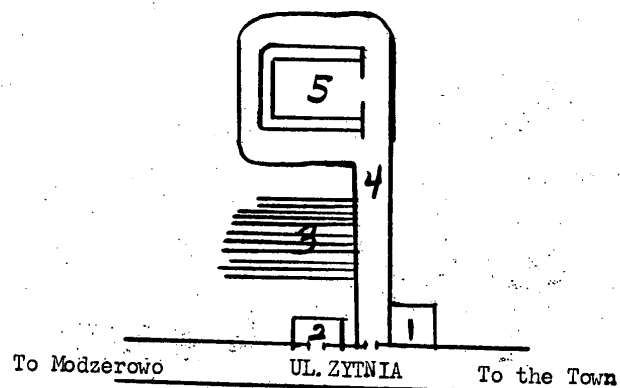
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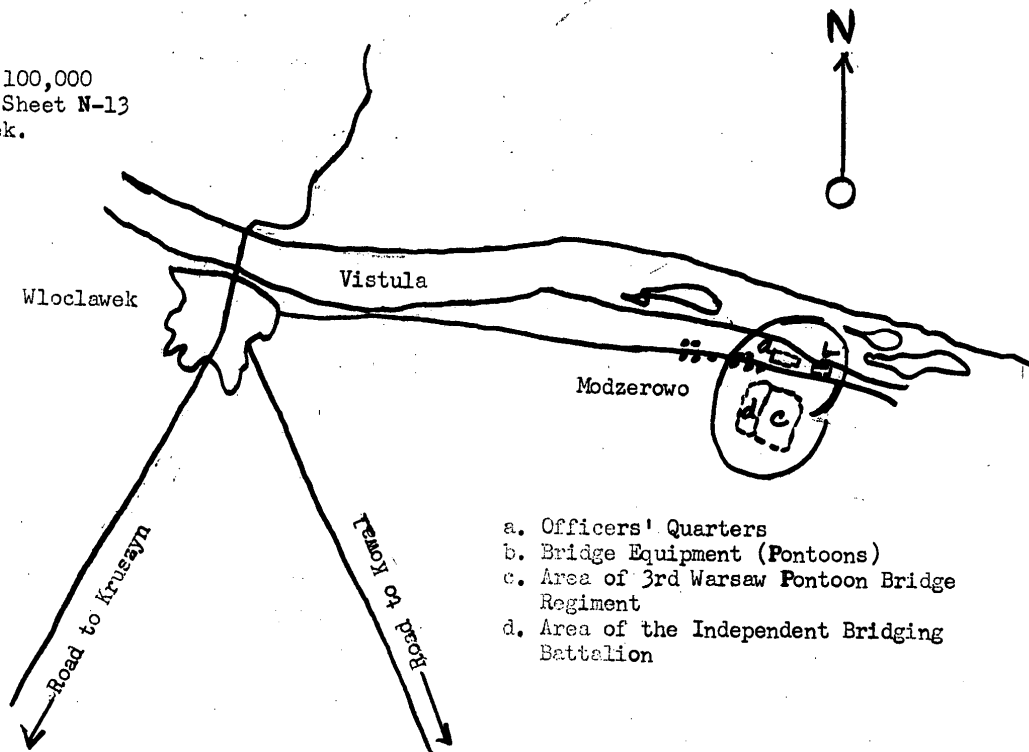
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Sketch No. 2



Sketch No. 3 - Area of the Summer Camp at Modzerowo

Scale 1:100,000  
Poland, Sheet N-13  
Wloclawek.



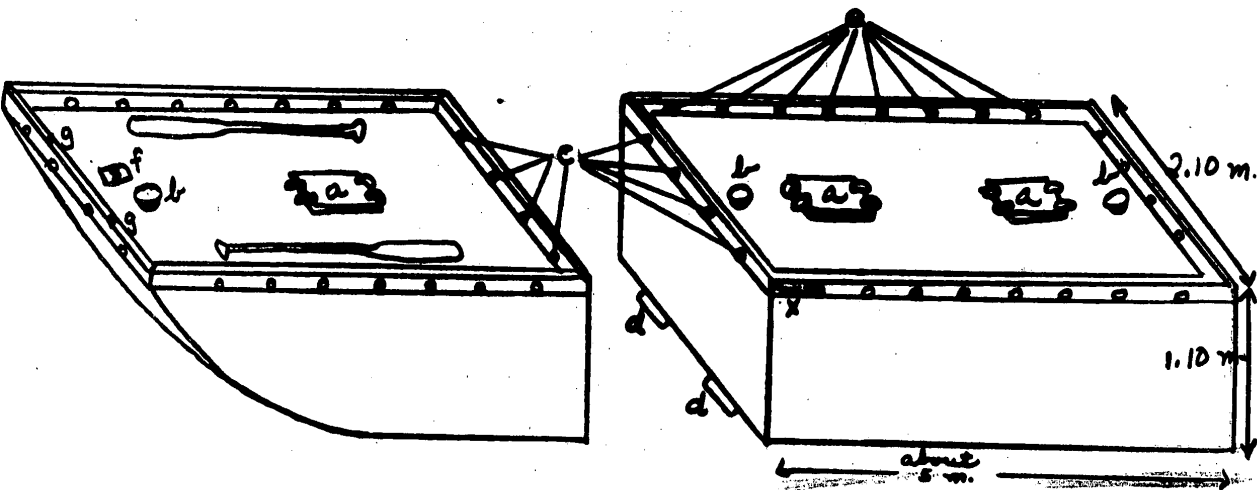
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Sketch No. 4 - Decked Pontoons



- a. Trap doors screwed down and water-tight
- b. Capstans for fastening lines
- c. Holes for connecting pontoons
- d. Lower fastenings for connecting pontoons
- e. Numbered holes for pontoon beams
- f. Base for anchor windlass
- g. Two holes for rowlocks

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Pontoons are made of sheet iron  
 Weight of pontoon: 520 kg.  
 Weight of beam: 220 kg.  
 Loading capacity: 2 platoons (16 men)  
 Beam has to be lifted by 6 men

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